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What is claimed is:

1 1. An access request processing method for use in a  
2 service provision device providing services in response to  
3 user requests, the access request processing method  
4 comprising:  
5       administering information related to statuses of the  
6 users;  
7       storing users requesting the services, content of the  
8 requested services, and status of users related to the  
9 requested services, correlatively with processes for the  
10 service requests; and  
11       when a service request has been made by a one user,  
12 obtaining the statuses of other users related to the  
13 requested service, and based on the one user who requested a  
14 service, on the other users related to the requested  
15 service, and on the obtained user status, determining a  
16 process for the service request.

1 2. An access request processing method for use in a  
2 communication device providing inter-user communication, the  
3 access request processing method comprising:  
4       storing statuses of the users;  
5       preparing a processing policy in which processes for  
6 communication requests are set for each of the users, the  
7 processes each in turn being according to a one user from

8 whom there is a request for communication with another user,  
9 to status of the other user with whom communication is  
10 requested, and to content of the requested communication;  
11 and

12 when a request for communication occurs, determining  
13 and reporting to the communication device a process for the  
14 request based, in the policy, on the user with whom  
15 communication is requested.

1 3. An access request processing system for use in a  
2 communication device providing communication among user  
3 terminals on a network, the access request processing system  
4 comprising:

5 first storing means for storing information related to  
6 users;

7 second storing means for storing statuses of the users;

8 third storing means for storing a processing policy in  
9 which processes for communication requests are set for each  
10 of the users, the processes each in turn being according to  
11 a one user from whom there is a request for communication  
12 with another user, to status of the other user with whom  
13 communication is requested, and to content of the requested  
14 communication;

15 authentication means for verifying, when a request for  
16 communication occurs, the communication requester;

17 liaising means for acquiring from the communication  
18 device the communication requester and requestee, as well as  
19 content of the communication;

20 determining means for determining and reporting to the  
21 communication device a process for the request, by obtaining  
22 one of the processes in the policy based on the requestee  
23 and the content of the communication acquired by said  
24 liaising means, and consulting status of the requestee and  
25 information related to the requester, based on result of the  
26 verification by said authentication means and on the  
27 obtained processing policy;

28 an information recording means for accepting input of  
29 recording in said first storing means the information  
30 related to users;

31 a status recording means for accepting input of and  
32 recording in said second storing means the statuses of the  
33 users; and

34 a policy recording means for accepting input of and  
35 recording in said third storing means the processing policy.

1 4. An access request processing device for use in a  
2 communication device providing communication among user  
3 terminals on a network, the access request processing device  
4 comprising:

5 first storing means for storing information related to  
6 users;

7 second storing means for storing statuses of the users;  
8 third storing means for storing a processing policy in  
9 which processes for communication requests are set for each  
10 of the users, the processes each in turn being according to  
11 a one user who requests communication with another user, to  
12 status of the other user with whom communication is  
13 requested, and to content of the requested communication;

14 authentication means for verifying, when a request for  
15 communication occurs, the communication requester;

16 liaising means for acquiring from the communication  
17 device the communication requester and requestee, as well as  
18 content of the communication; and

19 determining means for determining and reporting to the  
20 communication device a process for the request, by obtaining  
21 one of the processes in the policy based on the requestee  
22 and the content of the communication acquired by said  
23 liaising means, and consulting status of the requestee and  
24 information related to the requester, based on result of the  
25 verification and on the obtained processing policy.

1 5. An access request processing device according to  
2 claim 4, wherein:

3 said third storing means further stores an attribute-  
4 assigning policy in which an attribute of the one user who  
5 requests communication with the other user is set for the  
6 other user;

7        said determining means based on the obtained processing  
8 policy further consults the attribute-assigning policy, in  
9 addition to status of the requestee and information related  
10 to the requester, to determine the process for the request  
11 and to report the process to the communication device.

1        6. An access request processing device according to  
2 claim 4, further having an inquiry means for inquiring among  
3 communication requestee terminals, according to the process  
4 determined by the determining means, whether to permit the  
5 communication request, and for obtaining a reply to the  
6 inquiry.

1        7. An access request processing device according to  
2 claim 4, further comprising a request instructing means for,  
3 if information content related to the requester in order to  
4 handle the communication request is not recorded in said  
5 first storing means, making an obtain request for the  
6 information among the requester terminals and obtaining a  
7 reply.

1        8. An access request processing device according to  
2 claim 4, being connected to a peripheral information-  
3 providing means storing information related to the users,  
4 further comprising an information obtaining means for  
5 obtaining information related to the requester from the  
6 peripheral information-providing means if information  
7 content related to the requester in order to handle the

8 communication request is not recorded in said first storing  
9 means.

1 9. An access rights setting device for use in a  
2 communication device for inter-communication among other  
3 communication devices via a relay terminal, the access  
4 rights setting device comprising:

5 an information recording means for accepting input of  
6 information related to users and recording the information  
7 in the relay terminal;

8 a status recording means for accepting input of status  
9 on the users and recording the statuses in the relay  
10 terminal; and

11 a policy recording means for accepting input of, and  
12 recording in the relay terminal, a processing policy in  
13 which processes for communication requests are set for each  
14 of the users, the processes each in turn being according to  
15 a one user from whom there is a request for communication  
16 with another user, to status of the other user with whom  
17 communication is requested, and to content of the requested  
18 communication.

1 10. An access rights setting device according to claim  
2 9, wherein said policy recording means further accepts input  
3 of, and records in the relay terminal, an attribute-  
4 assigning policy in which an attribute of the one user who

5 requests communication with the other user is set for the  
6 other user.

1 11. An access rights setting device according to claim  
2 9, further having a replying means for reporting to the  
3 users inquiries from the relay terminal whether to permit  
4 requested communications, and for accepting and sending to  
5 the relay terminal user replies to the inquiries.

1 12. A computer-readable recording medium storing an  
2 access request processing program for use in communication  
3 devices providing communication among user terminals on a  
4 network, the computer-readable recording medium storing an  
5 access request processing program for executing:

6 (A) a step of storing information related to users;

7 (B) a step of storing statuses of all the users;

8 (C) a step of storing a processing policy in which  
9 processes for communication requests are set for  
10 each of the users, the processes each in turn being  
11 according to a one user from whom there is a request  
12 for communication with another user, to status of  
13 the other user with whom communication is requested,  
14 and to content of the requested communication;

15 (D) a step of verifying, when a request for  
16 communication occurs, the communication requester;

17 (E) a step of acquiring from the communication device  
18 the communication requester and requestee, as well  
19 as content of the communication;  
20 (F) a step of determining a process for the request by  
21 obtaining one of the processes in the policy based  
22 on the acquired requestee and the content of the  
23 communication, and consulting status of the  
24 requestee and information related to the requester,  
25 based on result of the verification in said step (D)  
26 and on the obtained processing policy; and  
27 (G) a step of reporting the determined process to the  
28 communication device.

1 13. A computer-readable recording medium storing an  
2 access rights setting program for use in a communication  
3 device for inter-communication among other communication  
4 devices via a relay terminal, the computer-readable  
5 recording medium storing an access rights setting program  
6 for executing:

7 (A) a step of accepting input of information related to  
8 users and recording the information in the relay  
9 terminal;

10 (B) a step of accepting input of status on the users and  
11 recording the statuses in the relay terminal; and

12 (C) a step of accepting input of, and recording in the  
13 relay terminal, a processing policy in which

14 processes for communication requests are set, the  
15 processes each in turn being according to a one user  
16 from whom there is a request for communication with  
17 another user, to status of the other user with whom  
18 communication is requested, and to content of the  
19 requested communication.

1 14. An access request processing method for use in an  
2 information providing device providing information to  
3 peripheral information terminals in response to requests,  
4 the access request processing method comprising:

5 storing per information item user statuses related to  
6 the information;

7 preparing a processing policy in which processes for  
8 information requests are set per information item, the  
9 processes each in turn being according to a one user who  
10 requests information, to status of another user related to  
11 the information, and to the information the request targets;

12 when a request for any of the information items occurs,  
13 determining and reporting to the information providing  
14 device a process for the request based on the processing  
15 policy for the information the request targets.

1 15. An access request processing system for use in an  
2 information providing device providing information to  
3 peripheral information terminals in response to requests,  
4 the access request processing system comprising:

5 first storing means for storing information related to  
6 requesters requesting the information;

7 second storing means for storing statuses of users  
8 related to the information the requests target;

9 third storing means for storing a processing policy in  
10 which processes for information requests are set for each of  
11 the users, the processes being according to information  
12 requesters, to statuses of the users related to the  
13 information, and to the information the requests target;

14 authentication means for verifying, when an information  
15 provision request occurs, the information provision  
16 requester;

17 liaising means for acquiring from the information  
18 providing device the requester and the information the  
19 request targets;

20 determining means for determining and reporting to the  
21 information providing device a process for the request, by  
22 obtaining one of the processes in the policy based on the  
23 information the request targets acquired by said liaising  
24 means, and consulting information related to the requester  
25 and status of the user related to the information the  
26 request targets, based on the result of requester  
27 verification by said authentication means and on the  
28 obtained processing policy;

29 an information recording means for accepting input of  
30 and recording in said first storing means the information  
31 related to the requester;

32 a status recording means for accepting input of and  
33 recording in said second storing means the status of the  
34 user related to the information; and

35 a policy recording means for accepting input of and  
36 recording in said third storing means the processing policy  
37 settings.

1 16. An access request processing device for use in an  
2 information providing device providing information to  
3 peripheral information terminals in response to requests,  
4 the access request processing device comprising:

5 first storing means for storing information related to  
6 requesters requesting the information;

7 second storing means for storing statuses of users  
8 related to the information the requests target;

9 third storing means for storing a processing policy in  
10 which processes for information requests are set for each of  
11 the users, the processes being according to information  
12 requesters, to statuses of the users related to the  
13 information, and to the information the requests target;

14 authentication means for verifying, when an information  
15 provision request occurs, the information provision  
16 requester;

17 liaising means for acquiring from the information  
18 providing device the requester and the information the  
19 request targets;

20 determining means for determining and reporting to the  
21 information providing device a process for the request, by  
22 obtaining one of the processes in the policy based on the  
23 information the request targets acquired by said liaising  
24 means, and consulting information related to the requester  
25 and status of the user related to the information the  
26 request targets, based on the result of requester  
27 verification by said authentication means and on the  
28 obtained processing policy.

1 17. An access rights setting device for use in an  
2 information terminal connected via a network to an  
3 information providing device providing information to  
4 peripheral information terminals in response to requests,  
5 the access rights setting device comprising:

6 an information recording means for accepting input of  
7 and sending to the information providing terminal,  
8 information related to users requesting provision of the  
9 information;

10 a status recording means for accepting input of and  
11 sending to the information providing device, status of users  
12 related to the information; and

13 a policy recording means for accepting settings for and  
14 sending to the information providing device, a policy in  
15 which processes for information requests are set for each  
16 information item, the processes being according to  
17 information requesters, to statuses of the users related to  
18 the information, and to the information the requests target.

1 18. A computer-readable medium storing an access  
2 request processing program for use in an information  
3 providing device providing information to peripheral  
4 information terminals in response to requests, the computer-  
5 readable medium storing an access request processing program  
6 for executing:

7 (A) a step of storing information related to requesters  
8 requesting the information;

9 (B) a step of storing statuses of users related to the  
10 information the requests target;

11 (C) a step of storing a processing policy in which  
12 processes for information requests are set for each  
13 of the users, the processes being according to  
14 information requesters, to statuses of the users  
15 related to the information, and to the information  
16 the requests target;

17 (D) a step of verifying, when an information provision  
18 request occurs, the information provision requester;

19 (E) a step of acquiring from the information providing  
20 device the requester and the information the request  
21 targets;

22 (F) a step of determining and reporting to the  
23 information providing device a process for the  
24 request, by obtaining one of the processes in the  
25 policy based on the information the request targets  
26 acquired in said step (E), and consulting  
27 information related to the requester and status of  
28 the user related to the information the request  
29 targets, based on the result of requester  
30 verification in said step (D) and on the obtained  
31 processing policy; and

32 (G) a step of reporting to the information providing  
33 device the process determined in said step (F).

1        19. A computer-readable medium storing an access rights  
2        setting program for use in an information terminal connected  
3        via a network to an information providing device providing  
4        information to peripheral information terminals in response  
5        to requests, the computer-readable medium storing an access  
6        rights setting program for executing:

7 (A) a step of accepting input of and sending to the  
8 information providing terminal, information related  
9 to users requesting provision of the information;

10 (B) a step of accepting input of and sending to the  
11 information providing device, status of users  
12 related to the information; and  
13 (C) a step of accepting settings for and sending to the  
14 information providing device, a policy in which  
15 processes for information requests are set for each  
16 information item, the processes being according to  
17 information requesters, to statuses of the users  
18 related to the information, and to the information  
19 the requests target.